

Appl. No. 10/780,512
Reply to Office Action of December 23, 2004

Attorney Docket No. 2003.0461/24061.520
Customer No. 42717

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on December 23, 2004 sets forth both (1) a restriction requirement and (2) an election-of-species requirement. These two different requirements are addressed separately below.

Restriction Requirement

The Office Action sets forth a restriction requirement as between the following groups of pending claims:

- I. Apparatus Claims 1-8 and 16-25 (drawn to a seal structure classified in class 257, subclass 758); and
- II. Method Claims 9-15 (drawn to a method of forming a seal ring structure, classified in class 438, subclass 1+).

In response to this restriction requirement, Applicants elect the apparatus claims in Group I (Claims 1-8 and 16-25).

Election-Of-Species Requirement

The Office Action sets forth an election-of-species requirement as between the following disclosed embodiments:

- I. Figure 6.
- II. Figure 7.

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III. Figure 8A.

IV. Figure 8B.

V. Figure 8C.

In response to this election-of-species requirement, Applicants elect Species IV, or in other words the embodiment of Figure 8B. As among the apparatus claims that have been elected above in response to the separate restriction requirement, Claims 1-2, 4-8, 16-22 and 24-25 are all believed to be readable on the elected species. Of these, all are believed to be generic, in that Claims 1-2, 4-8, 16-22 and 24-25 each read onto the elected species, and also onto at least one non-elected species. (For completeness, Applicants also point out that, as among the method claims that are currently non-elected under the separate restriction requirement, Claims 9 and 11-15 are readable on the elected species, and are all believed to be generic).

Conclusion

Although Applicants believe that no fee is due in association with the filing of this Response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee required by this

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paper, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-1394 of Haynes and Boone LLP.
Further and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: January 21, 2005

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Enclosures: None

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